

BIG BEND STATION

EATON CATTLE COMPANY



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US WS

June 29, 2007

Dear Honorable Governor Bill Ritter and Task Force Members:

Our family has farmed in the South Platte River basin for over a hundred years. We appreciate that you have formed a team, in response to the well shut-down crisis. However, your characterization of the crisis, describing it as an argument between senior and junior water right holders, is inaccurate. It is not senior and junior water right holders that have created the problem. It is mismanaged water resources. And it is the use of water law, by attorneys supported by development of the front range, to usurp water from farmers, so that agricultural land too will become available for development.

You state that the Task Force has been formed to seek solutions. Since the senior water right holders are not dissatisfied, we assume that those sought-after solutions are for farmers. We want to know, as taxpayers: Is the Task Force only for "seeking" or if it is actually tasked with "resolution"?

If it is the former, why then are you wasting Colorado Taxpayers' time and resources? My family has heard from more than one Task Force member that resolutions are unlikely. Can you promise that you will overcome that? If not, it is hard to see the Task Force as other than political posturing.

Or, as we hope, has the Task Force gathered to alleviate the *unnecessary* crisis that mismanaged water resources have put, not just on farmers, but on all those who will suffer environmentally, economically and from less safe, less secure food supplies? That would be true leadership and wonderful. If the Task Force's actual goal is *productivity*—something that farmers can relate to—we want to know what kind of Task Force outcome would be considered "solutions". And we would like to know this today.

Sincerely,

The Eaton Cattle Company
Dorothy Thomas Phelps
William Eaton Phelps, Jr
Ann Eaton Phelps
Tershia d'Elgin

Dorothy Thomas Phelps